

Friday, November 18, 2005

## Police Make First Arrest Using GPS

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SANTA ANA – A paroled sex offender tracked to a grade school parking lot, doll shop and amusement park through electronic monitoring became the first person arrested under an Orange County pilot program, officials said today.

Robert Dobucki was taken into custody Tuesday for allegedly violating terms of his parole to stay out of areas where children frequent, according to Roderick Q. Hickman of the Parole Operations Division of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The program that uses electronic ankle bracelets to track paroled sex offenders was introduced in Orange County last month and this was the first arrest in connection with the program, Hickman said.

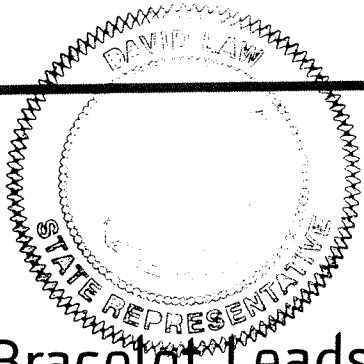
“Our primary concern is to protect public safety,” Hickman said. “These parolees know that any minute of any day their movement is being monitored by agents and police investigators.”

More than 40 people deemed sexual violent predators were outfitted with the global positioning system devices, which allow parole agents to monitor their movements in real time, Hickman said.

The GPS history log for Dobucki showed that he had been on the parking area of a grade school in Orange, a doll shop and to “Adventure City,” a small amusement park for children.

Upon his arrest, Dobucki was booked into the Anaheim Jail, Hickman said. Jeff Fagot, regional parole administrator, said the amazing thing is “how specific this technology is.”

“The parole agent was able to determine an exact location and duration of Mr. Dobucki’s whereabouts, which allowed us to make an arrest before a crime had occurred,” Fagot said.



## Orange County Register

Friday, November 18, 2005

### A GPS Bracelet Leads to Arrest

Jennifer Muir — *The Orange County Register*

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A convicted sex offender was arrested this week for violating parole after his Global Positioning System ankle monitor alerted authorities that he had been in an elementary school parking lot and at an amusement park.

It's the first arrest in Orange County since a program to track high-risk sex offenders was launched here last month.

Robert Dobucki, 45, of Anaheim was arrested Tuesday after his parole officer reviewed his GPS history and discovered he spent two minutes in a parking lot at Saint Norbert's Catholic School in Orange on Nov. 5 and had been at the

Adventure City amusement park and a store specializing in dolls in Anaheim on Nov. 12.

A condition of Dobucki's parole requires him to stay away from areas frequented by children, California Department of Corrections spokeswoman Elaine Jennings said.

The fact that Dobucki knew he was being tracked "shows how difficult the circle of crime is to break," Jennings said.

"These are the people who we think have a high likelihood of re-offending in the community and the group we think the public needs to be protected from.... GPS is an amazing tool that's really letting us do that," she said.

Dobucki is among 40 Orange County offenders who were assigned tracking devices last month. Eighty sexual offenders in San Diego and San Bernardino counties were given GPS devices in July.

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# WHERE ON EARTH ARE SEX OFFENDERS?

By Donna Lyons

Global Positioning Satellite technology, developed by the military in the 1960s, is now finding its way into everyday life, for convenience and safety. The U.S. Department of Defense calls the orbiting, solar powered satellites NAVSTAR. States are calling them the latest tool for tracking sex offenders who often disappear from the reg-

istration rolls after their release. In at least a dozen states, policies are pairing intense supervision of sex offenders with constant GPS monitoring of their whereabouts.

dozens of laws as part of a campaign in Florida to remove these offenders from society," says Representative Dick Kravitz, a sponsor of the act. The law imposes a mandatory sentence of 25 years to life for many offenders who commit crimes against children. Released sexual predators and others who have committed specific sex crimes, particularly those against children, must for the rest of their lives be subject to "active electronic monitoring."

the chief technologist for Satellite Monitoring and Remote Tracking (SMART), says GPS works to deter crime and identify perpetrators. SMART is the real-time tracking system marketed by the Florida-based company Pro Tech. It's currently in use in Florida, as well as in agencies in Colorado, Kansas and Texas. Florida has had pilot programs using GPS for several years, and found the re-offense rates among those monitored significantly less than would be expected.

"If someone is going to re-offend, let's catch them the first time, not the fiftieth," Layson says. The ability of GPS to help connect possible suspects to a crime is the high-

**States are using satellites to track dangerous sex offenders, many of whom become lost to registration systems.**

## JESSICA LUNSFORD ACT

A 2005 law in Florida spurred by the abduction and murder of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford in Citrus County, requires lifetime GPS monitoring of certain sex offenders. It contains other provisions to toughen sentencing, enforce the registration requirement, and penalize those who harbor a sex offender in violation of the duty to register, a factor in the Lunsford case.

The transient sex offender who confessed to Jessica's murder had a history of crimes against children. He was required to register under Florida law, but like many others he had failed to keep his address up-to-date for the registry. John Evander Couey held the missing child just yards from her home and the police command center set up to help find her.

"The Jessica Lunsford Act expands on

Donna Lyons heads NCSL's Criminal Justice Program in the Denver office.



REPRESENTATIVE  
DICK KRAVITZ  
FLORIDA

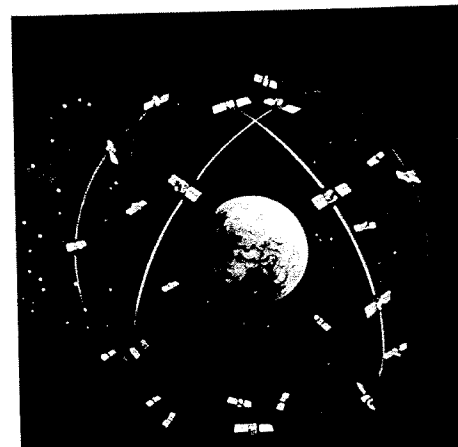
## THE COSTS

GPS monitoring costs about \$9 a day per offender, according to a fiscal estimate of the act. Staff say costs already are dropping due to the technology becoming more common, as well as economy of scale as the numbers of offenders under surveillance grow.

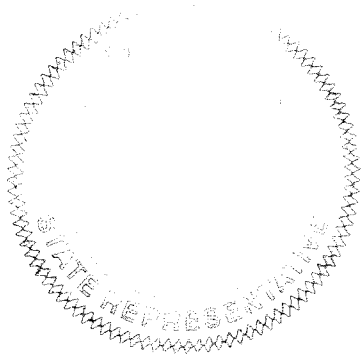
Conventional house-arrest electronic monitoring, still considerably cheaper, can report if an offender leaves his base location, but cannot identify where he is.

"With active GPS, we'll know more about the movement of sex offenders who need to be watched," Representative Kravitz says. "Are they staying out of excluded areas? Do their movements show unnecessary patterns or deviations? We can know and act on that."

Hoyt Layson Jr., a Florida inventor who adapted GPS for offender supervision and is



The earth is surrounded by 24 satellites that transmit signals to ground stations. GPS receivers take this information and use it to calculate locations. Once a position has been determined, GPS can make other speed, track and distance determinations. Offenders supervised with GPS wear a wireless anklet device no bigger than a bar of soap requires recharging for just 30 minutes a day. The GPS provides law enforcement with minute-by-minute location information.



tech investigative tool police need, he says. The location of a robbery, for example, can be quickly correlated with offenders known to be in the area at the time of the crime, as well as exclude many others who were not.

"It's a work force multiplier when detectives don't have to spend time scrutinizing the wrong people and can use GPS to focus on the right leads," Layson says.

The technology can also provide all sorts of other information useful to law enforcement. "You can begin to build a density map that tells you where offenders go when they are not at work or school or wherever. You can identify places where offenders co-mingle, and use that information to, for example, check out locations for drug dealing," Layson says.

#### **PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES**

In Florida today, there are more than 30,000 registered sex offenders, with nearly 5,500 of them designated sexual predators. As the number of offenders on surveillance grows, so might concerns about protecting civil liberties.

Chris Jay Hoofnagle, a senior counsel with the Electronic Privacy Information Center's (EPIC) San Francisco office, says that policies around "Big Brother" technologies have to look not just at who is being monitored, but also what is being collected, who has access to that information, and how long information is kept and for what purpose.

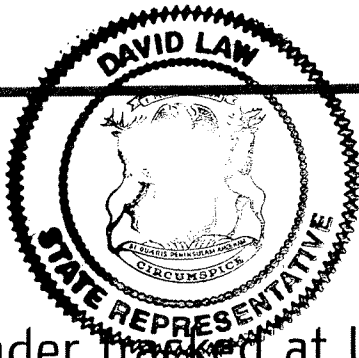
He says that while GPS monitoring of sex offenders is not something EPIC opposes, it is the kind of thing they watch for "mission creep," or a gradual change in the methods, use and goals of the technology.

"Generally, these things get a foothold by being used on marginalized populations," Hoofnagle says. "Then the march begins to see what else we can do with them."

The Florida Department of Corrections estimates that initially they will monitor about 328 offenders under Jessica's Law. It expects the numbers to triple in the second year and double again in the third year. To Representative Kravitz and others, it's a commitment to policy and funding they are willing to make.

"It empowers law enforcement with tools to do more to protect our communities," Kravitz says. "If these protections had been in place before Jessica Lunsford was killed, that little girl would still be alive today,"





## Redlands Daily Facts

Friday, November 4, 2005

### Sex offender tracked at UR is first in state caught by GPS

*Collen Mensching — Staff Writer*

REDLANDS A Mentone man suspected of trespassing on the University of Redlands campus last week became the first parolee in California arrested on the basis of field data from the state's new GPS tracking system for high-risk sex offenders.

According to officials, some parolees monitored by the system have been arrested for trying to remove a GPS (Global Positioning System) device or refusing to wear one. Seth Gregory Chamberlin, 25, is the first parolee in California to be arrested because field data from a GPS device indicated an offender was in an area where he posed a threat to public safety, police said.

Court records show that Chamberlin has been convicted of sex crimes multiple times since 1998. He was released from prison in June. On Oct. 20, Chamberlin and four other high-risk sex offenders in the East Valley were outfitted with global positioning ankle bracelets, marking the beginning of San Bernardino County's involvement in a state-sponsored pilot program to track high-risk offenders using global positioning satellite data.

The program launched in July in San Diego County and now includes San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and Orange counties. A total of 500 offenders will be tracked in the two-year pilot program, according to officials.

Kurt Smith, of the Redlands Police Department's Community Analysis Unit, became involved in the state's effort to implement GPS tracking of high-risk sex offenders when the project was set in motion 18 months ago. During the last week of October he began assisting parole agents by reviewing the tracking data of the five braceleted East Valley offenders.

Smith said he noticed a significant change in Chamberlin's activities just six days after the parolee was outfitted with a GPS device. On Oct. 26 Chamberlain traveled within 100

University of Redlands campus, according to officials.

"Within an hour we were on the phone with (Chamberlin's parole agent)," Smith said.

Chamberlin pleaded guilty in 1998 to multiple counts of indecent exposure committed in Redlands, according to court records. In 1999, he pleaded guilty to another indecent exposure and to sexual battery in Redlands, records show.

Also, Chamberlin has a history of offenses at the University of Redlands. In February 2001, he reportedly exposed himself on the campus, said Lt. Dan Shefchik, director of public safety at the university. A month later Chamberlin was arrested in connection with another indecent exposure that occurred at the school, Shefchik said.

Chamberlin pleaded guilty to that offense, too.

Chamberlin's presence near and on school campuses is a violation of his parole. Police suspect Chamberlin may have been on the university campus earlier last month, before a GPS device was recording his movements.

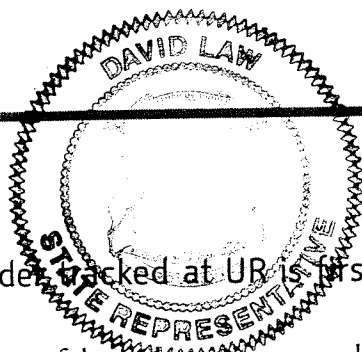
"We had a student who had noted a vehicle that she thought was following her around," Shefchik said. The student didn't have any contact with the driver of the car, but was eventually able to give a reliable description of the vehicle, including a partial license plate number, and the man behind the wheel, according to Shefchik.

"When Seth's name came up, we looked into what cars he had access to. It was very, very similar," said Shefchik.

After GPS data placed Chamberlin on the campus on Oct. 26, Redlands police, Chamberlin's parole agent, and university public safety officials met and coordinated Chamberlin's Oct. 27 arrest at his home in Mentone.

"I'm happy we got to him in between the parole violation and a crime involving another person," said Smith.

"This is an exciting time in the program," said Elaine Jennings, spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. "It shows that the devices are doing what we hope they'd be doing."



## Sex offender tracked at UR is first in state caught by GPS, cont.

In the first phase of the tracking program, a select group of offenders identified by the state as high-risk were outfitted with devices that could provide information about location and movement using a computer application called VeriTracks. The data is available to authorities on demand.

Offender profiles are now being customized so the GPS devices can also automatically notify authorities when an offender has entered an "exclusion zone," a place when he or she may not according to his or her terms of parole. Parole agents received training on this VeriTracks feature last week.

Last week, Orange County became the first county in the in the nation with the capacity to cross-reference GPS data about parolees and specific crimes, another component of the VeriTracks system.

"Where's the bracelet? Where's the offender? Where's the crime? It's adds another layer of information for us," Jennings said. "It helps us not only rule in, but also rule out, possible parolees during an investigation."

Several states, including Florida, Oklahoma, Massachusetts and Tennessee, have laws providing for GPS tracking of sex offenders but, Jennings said, Orange County's ability to relate geographic information about parolees and crimes make California's sex-offender tracking system the most advanced on the country. The other participating California counties will use that feature of VeriTracks as resources become available, she said.

Several officials have commented on the role of collaboration in the landmark arrest of Chamberlin.

Smith said Redlands' established Parole and Corrections Team, under which Redlands officers work with state parole agents, helped pave the way for local participation in the GPS program. He said he looks forward to seeing the "hometown" knowledge of local agencies maximize the use of GPS tracking at the state level.

"Forming partnerships with local law enforcement is a key component of the GPS roll-out," said Regional Parole Administrator Jeff Faor.

"The GPS tool is an important addition to our field contacts and investigations. It has enormous potential for enhancing our most important mission, which is public safety," he said.

Those partnerships could become even more critical if a large package of proposed sex offender legislation makes its way onto the November 2006 ballot and is passed as a voter initiative.

The Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act, sponsored in the state legislature this summer by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, proposed several changes to sex offender laws including mandatory life-long GPS tracking of registered felony offenders even an the offender's parole has expired. The legislation is also known as "Jessica's Law," named for 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford, of Florida, who was kidnapped, beaten and killed in February. Legislators did not vote on the act before the close of their 2005 session.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos, Sheriff Gary Penrod, County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus and Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt all expressed their support for the act.

In October, Schwarzenegger, state Sen. George Runner, R-Antelope Valley, and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, R-Antelope Valley, kicked off a signature-gathering campaign to establish Jessica's Law as a November 2006 state ballot initiative.

On the Net:

<http://www.veritracks.com>

<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov>

<http://www.dmh.ca.gov/press/docs/2005/dedication/SVP%20Current%20vs%20Proposed%20Law.pdf> (California Department of Mental Health comparison of current law and The Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act)

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